

Advancing the Gospel

Big Idea: God designs the events of our lives to advance the gospel.

The gospel was advancing because...

1. Paul knew his imprisonment was **for Christ**. 1:12,13
 - a. He **accepted** life's situations as God-ordained opportunities to advance the gospel. (12)
 - b. He used it to make Christ **known** to everyone (13)

2 Tim. 2:8,9 – the word of God is NOT bound!
2. Paul's imprisonment for Christ **emboldened** other believers. 1:14
 - a. It gave them **confidence** in the Lord. 1 Thess. 2:2
 - b. It brought **boldness** to speak the word. Eph. 6:19,20
 - c. It removed **fear**. Heb. 13:5,6
3. Paul's imprisonment resulted in Christ being **proclaimed**, bringing him joy, regardless of the motives! 1:15-18
 - a. Some preached Christ with **selfish** motives.
 - b. Most preached Christ **sincerely**.

Bottom Line: Paul, and most of the brethren, were bold, knowing that his imprisonment was ordained by God for the defense of the gospel.

2 Questions to Consider:

- Have I accepted my life's situations as God-ordained opportunities to advance the gospel?
- How can I prepare myself to defend the gospel this week?

"He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose." – Jim Elliott – Martyred Missionary